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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,952	06/25/2003	Peter Lyon Harris	297912001602	3111

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EXAMINER

LANDREM, KAMRIN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/603,952	Applicant(s) HARRIS ET AL.	
	Examiner Kamrin R. Landrem	Art Unit 3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/11/05; 11/22/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/11/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 14-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrenfeld in view of Possis et al (USPN 4,601,718)

With reference to Figures 4 and 5, Ehrenfeld discloses a vascular prosthesis composed of Dacron comprising a tube 31 and a first end formation 38 configured for connection to a blood vessel 24. The second end formation 34 is much smaller in diameter than first end formation 38. The diameter of the chamber that lies parallel with the vessel is greater than the diameter of the vessel (when transversely measured as in claim 2). The first diameter also comprises a heel 36 and toe 38. The transition between the tube 31 and the toe 38 is outwardly convex before a final concave portion. Heel 36 is generally outwardly concave. The prior art disclosed by Ehrenfeld

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also anticipates a tubular graft comprising a heel and toe wherein the toe is outwardly convex before a final concave portion (see Figure 2). The vascular prosthesis of Ehrenfeld is capable of allowing localized movement of blood having a non-laminar nature. Ehrenfeld discloses the claimed vascular prosthesis. Ehrenfeld however fails to disclose that the diameter of the tubular portion prior to the end formation has a smaller diameter than the remainder of the tubular portion. With reference to Figures 4, 9, 10 and 11 Possis et al teaches a polytetrafluoroethylene vascular prosthesis comprising an elongate tubular member 37 having an end formation 46 and a tubular portion including a decreased diameter 44 prior to the commencement of the end formation 46 to whereby the area of decreased diameter controls the blood flow and pressure to provide continual flow and desired pressures that inhibit thrombosis formation (2:41-65 and 3:1-32). Therefore in view of the teachings it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the vascular prosthesis as disclosed by Ehrenfeld to include an area of decreased diameter prior to the end formation and junction location to control blood flow and pressure and inhibit thrombosis formation.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrenfeld in view of Possis et al.

Ehrenfeld as modified Possis and discussed above discloses the invention as claimed. Ehrenfeld as modified by Possis discloses that the first diameter is greater than the second diameter however lacks the disclosure of the specific diameters of 14mm to 36mm. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modified the device of Ehrenfeld to have the specific diameters as claimed since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in sized is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art (see MPEP 2144.04).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 14-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamrin R. Landrem whose telephone number is 571-272-4752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kamrin Landrem
Examiner
AU 3738

krl


CORRINE McDERMOTT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700